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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/607,646	06/27/2003	Guyton P. Swindell	A8973	2684

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EXAMINER

PHAN, THIEM D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3729

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/607,646

Applicant(s)

SWINDELL ET AL.

Examiner

Tim Phan

Art Unit

3729

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-5 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/10/03 & 7/14/05.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicants' election without traverse of Group I, Claims 6-9, filed on 10/27/05, is acknowledged.

The Restriction mailed on 9/09/05 has been carefully reviewed and is held to be proper. Moreover Applicants did not distinctly and specifically point out any error in the Restriction Requirement. Accordingly, Claims 1-5 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Group, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

The Restriction filed on 9/09/05 is hereby **made Final**.

Applicants are required to cancel these nonelected claims (1-5) or take other appropriate action.

An Office Action on the merits of Claims 6-9 now follows.

Title

2. The following title is suggested: "Method for Taut Sheath Splicing of All-Dielectric, Self-Supporting Fiber Optic Cable".

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "32" and "14" have both been used to designate "16" in Figure 3. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show "Ports 58, 60, 62 and 64" (Paragraph 21) as described in the specification. Any structural detail that is

essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Forrester et al (US 5,867,624) in view of Bossard (US 5,353,366).

As applied to claim 6, Forrester et al teach a method for storing surplus ADSS cable, comprising:

- applying a clamp or dead-end grasper (Fig. 9, 12) to a first portion of a first fiber optic cable (Fig. 9, 10);
- using a bail (Fig. 9, 18 & 20) to connect the clamp to a support structure;
- connecting a splice closure (Fig. 9, 70) to the bail;
- splicing (Col. 7, lines 9-13) a second portion of the first fiber optic cable to a second fiber optic cable in the splice closure; except for connecting an aerial splicing platform to the bail to splice the fiber optic cable.

Bossard teaches an aerial optical fiber splicing station (Fig. 3, 10) hanged to a splice closure (Col. 4, lines 9 & 10) in order to facilitate the working on the fiber optic cable in difficult location such as aerial enclosures (Abstract).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the aerial optical fiber splicing station hanged to a splice closure to the process of working fiber optic cable with the splice enclosure hanged to a bail, as taught by Forrester et al, in order to have the aerial optical fiber splicing station hanged directly to the bail and to facilitate

the working on the aerial fiber optic cable such as testing, repairing, installation or the like.

As applied to claim 7, Forrester et al teach that the splice closure (Fig. 9, 70) is positioned away from the clamp (Fig. 9, 12) to maintain a minimum bend radius in the first fiber optic cable.

As applied to claim 8, Forrester et al teach that the first fiber optic cable is an all-dielectric, self-supporting (ADSS) fiber optic cable (Col. 2, lines 36 & 37).

As applied to claim 9, Forrester et al and Bossard teach the process of working on aerial fiber optic cable, including the in-line and butt splice (Forrester et al; col. 7, lines 9-13) of the ADSS optical cable (Fig. 9, 10), which reads on applicants' claimed invention.

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to work on the ADSS optical cable without requiring additional slack in the fiber optic cable to perform a splice.

Conclusion


7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tim Phan whose telephone number is 571-272-4568. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F, 9AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tim Phan
Examiner
Art Unit 3729



A. DEXTER TUGBANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

tp
December 13, 2005